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2002 OLYMPIC SECURITY FUNDS SURVIVE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE

\$60 million part of spending package headed to White House

WASHINGTON, D.C. – After defeating attempts last week by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to eliminate funds for Olympic security at the 2002 Winter Games, Senator Bob Bennett is pleased to announce the funds also survived a House-Senate conference today and are now part of the package that will be sent to President George W. Bush for his signature.

“Today’s action further demonstrates my colleagues’ recognition of the tight time frame associated with preparing for the Olympics next year, and that to delay law enforcement preparations would make us more vulnerable to terrorist attack,” Bennett said. “I don’t want us to be put in the position of having to say we were too late, we couldn’t fully prepare, we were underfunded. My colleagues acknowledge the risks of a delay. I appreciate their strong support, particularly that of Sen. Ted Stevens, the senior Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee.”

The \$60 million requested by Bennett for law enforcement activities at the Games and included in the Senate version of the 2001 Supplemental Appropriations Bill, were not part of the House-passed version of the bill. When conferees from both the House and Senate met to hammer out differences between the two measures the conferees agreed to the Senate version and included the \$60.6 million.

Last week as the Senate was considering the measure, Sen. McCain offered an amendment to strip \$30 million from the Olympic security funds. The Senate joined Bennett in his efforts to defeat McCain in a n 83-16 vote. Following passage by the House and Senate of the Conference Report, produced from today’s conference and typically a formality, the Appropriations Bill will be sent to the White House for presidential approval.

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